



SANTA Vs CLAUS

(In Search of Santa – Part II)

1. THE ENGAGEMENT (ACT ONE)

As Christmas time approaches, penguins large and small waddle about decorating every nook and cranny of Penguin Island.

Inside Penguin Palace, the royal penguin family and Pup decorate the throne room. [song opportunity: big Christmas song.] King Calvin tells his daughters to expect a big surprise on Christmas Day.

Crystal and Lucinda's imaginations run wild. What is it, what is it?? They cry.

Penelope tells Crystal that on Christmas Day she will meet her future husband Prince Schneckleton and his parents, the King and Queen of Cape Schneckleton. The engagement will cement a strategic alliance with Schneckleton's colony.

Congratulations, Mrs. Schneckleton,? Lucinda tells Crystal.

Crystal races to Eugene's workshop in tears and tells him that she's betrothed to a Prince she has never met. What will I do Eugene?? She weeps. Eugene dries her eyes with his magic scarves and promises that everything will turn out fine. But later, Eugene wonders what HE will do. He grabs his tools, puts on his work goggles and surgical mask and returns to his latest top secret project.

2. CLAUS HOOKEY

With only a few short weeks before Christmas, elves work busily in the factory and reindeer get into shape for the Christmas Eve run. The musical clock tower fills Santa's city with song.

Satisfied that everything is on schedule, Santa meets Mrs. Claus in the castle library dressed for skiing in the Alps. But she's prepared for sun worshipping in the Tropics. All I ever see is snow and you want to go to skiing?? Mrs. Claus pouts. Santa changes into a Hawaiian shirt and Bermuda shorts. We only want a few hours in a place we haven't been before,? Mrs. C. tells Toby the elf librarian.

I know just the place! Grins Toby, and presents a dusty old book entitled adventures in the Enchanted isles? Mrs. C turns to a picture of sun-drenched beach, and takes Santa's hand. They disappear into the book.

The next time Crystal visits Eugene's workshop he tells her he's too busy to see her. Later, she invites him to go ice dancing and he tells her to have fun without him. Whenever he passes her in the palace he pretends to be in a rush.

On the night of the Tree Lighting Party, Eugene decides he can no longer continue the charade and that it would be best to leave the island for good. He boards his modified underwater boat and pedals away.

At sea, he meets Gail the Mail Whale making her rounds. She relays the message of three mysterious penguins wreaking havoc in the North Pole and asks Eugene if he's seen Santa. Gail's description of the alleged efficiency experts sounds awfully familiar to Eugene.

At the tree party, Crystal asks Lucinda and Philip if they have seen Eugene. Philip says no, but remarks that Eugene has been acting strange lately. Lucinda suggests that Crystal might think less about the fool and more about Schneckleton. Just then Eugene bursts in, flailing his wings frantically. The Deep Thinkers have taken over the North Pole!? He cries.

8. THE ADVENTURE BEGINS [ACT TWO]

Crystal, Lucinda, Eugene and Pup set course for the North Pole in Eugene's underwater boat. Before long, they enter dark waters which Lucinda worries may be the dreaded Squid Alley.

"We are nowhere near Squid Alley," says Eugene confidently. "Then what's that huge eye staring at us through the peephole?? Lucinda asks.

"This can't be good," gulps Crystal.

A Giant Squid seizes their craft in its tentacles and squeezes it. As the capsule's inner seams creak and bend, Eugene directs everyone to pedal furiously. When the outer balloons expand, the Squid adjusts its grip. Eugene throws the deflation lever. As air rushes out of the balloons, it slips free of the squid's hold and shoots into the air.

The underwater boat lands aboard the deck of a ship. A big bloodshot eye peers through the porthole. "Come out with your hands up!" bellows a cantankerous voice.

contains a fuzzy little eaglet. Before they can search for the book, the mother eagle swoops down, seizes Eugene in her talons and flies away. Eugene quickly explains that he and his friends mean no harm. They have come to rescue Santa.

Being an old friend of Santa, the mother eagle is only too happy to help. She regretfully explains that she had no idea Santa was inside the book and shredded it into nesting material.

On the closer inspection of the nest, they see that the book has been torn into a million pieces and mixed in with twigs, mud and leaves.

Eugene believes the book can be reassembled just like a jigsaw puzzle. He pulls out of his knapsack his work goggles, surgical mask, sterile gloves, tweezers, and the big roll of tape. As Eugene pieces the book together, Lucinda whispers, I was wrong about you, Eugene. You are smart and brave. If you love my sister, you should fight for her.

Hours later, Eugene tapes in the very last piece. The book radiates a magic aura, the cover flips open, and out steps Santa, Mrs. Claus and Toby.

20 CHRISTMAS EVE - FULL MOON

Santa rides Blitzen, Mrs. Claus and Toby ride Dancer, Crystal and Lucinda ride Dasher, Orville and Max ride Vixen, and Eugene and Pup ride Cupid.

Just as they reach the North Pole, a blur of red and a sonic boom scatters their formation. It's the TDTs driving Santa's souped up sleigh. The sonic boom nearly knocks Santa, Crystal and the others off their mounts.

We'll never catch them! They are too fast! Cries Lucinda.

You have no idea what my reindeer are made of, Santa chuckles. After them boys!

Blitzen, Dancer, Dasher, Vixen and Cupid chase the jet sleigh from cloud to cloud and across the Arctic Ocean. The TDTs lure them into a foggy mountain range where jagged peaks test the reindeer's reflexes (and everyone's nerves). The stalwart reindeer stay the course. The TDTs hurl toys at them, but the poorly constructed toys fall apart in mid air. The TDTs try to outmaneuver the reindeer across the rooftops of